

# THE 1956 OLYMPIC GAMES



OFFICE OF ARMED FORCES INFORMATION & EDUCATION  
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE



From the Greeks comes their name; from the world's best athletes comes their fame—and this year is the year of . . .

# THE 1956 OLYMPIC GAMES



The Olympic symbol, recognized throughout the world, consists of five different colored circles on a field of white. Representative of the five continents, these circles are linked together to denote the sporting friendship of the peoples of the earth, whatever their creed or country. The colors of the rings are Blue, Yellow, Black, Green, and Red—colors chosen because at least one of them appears in the flag of every nation in the world. The words "Citius, Altius, Fortius," which frequently appear under the circles, mean "quicker, higher, more strongly," and are indicative of the competing athlete's endeavor to run faster, jump higher, and throw more strongly.

Things will be jumping in the "Land Down Under" come November 22 of this year. And we don't mean just kangaroos!

Under the bright spring sunshine at Melbourne, Australia, young men and women from more than 70 countries will meet for two weeks of combat.

Not a combat of arms, ideals, or theories, but a contest that pits the athletic skill of the individual and the team against that of friendly rivals.

Some will make headlines all over the world by their feats in track and field events, in boxing, swimming, rowing, in rifle and pistol shooting, and in other sports. Others will know the satisfaction of having done their best in competition with some of the world's greatest athletes. All will be an honor and a credit to the lands of their birth or adoption.





**Early games included races in which contestants carried various items of military equipment, such as shields and helmets. At right, a city turns out to welcome a citizen who scored an Olympic victory.**

This world contest will be, of course, the summer Olympic Games, known as the Sixteenth of modern times. (They will actually be the thirteenth. In the Olympic years 1916, 1940, and 1944, real war prevented the holding of the Fifth, Eleventh, and Twelfth Games.)

The President proclaimed 22 October 1955 as National Olympic Day, urging American citizens to do all in their power to support the 1956 Olympic Games.

A larger number of U. S. servicemen than ever before, it is expected, will be among the contestants. In September 1954, the Secretary of Defense appointed a "Department of Defense Committee on International Sports Competitions," with representatives from all the Services. Congress has given official support to participation in the Olympics by military personnel, and the Armed Services have provided opportunities for interested servicemen and women to train and try out for the U. S. team that will go to Australia in November.

It is interesting to note that a number of Olympic contestants representing other countries have re-

ceived their training in the United States.

### WHY THE GAMES ARE IMPORTANT

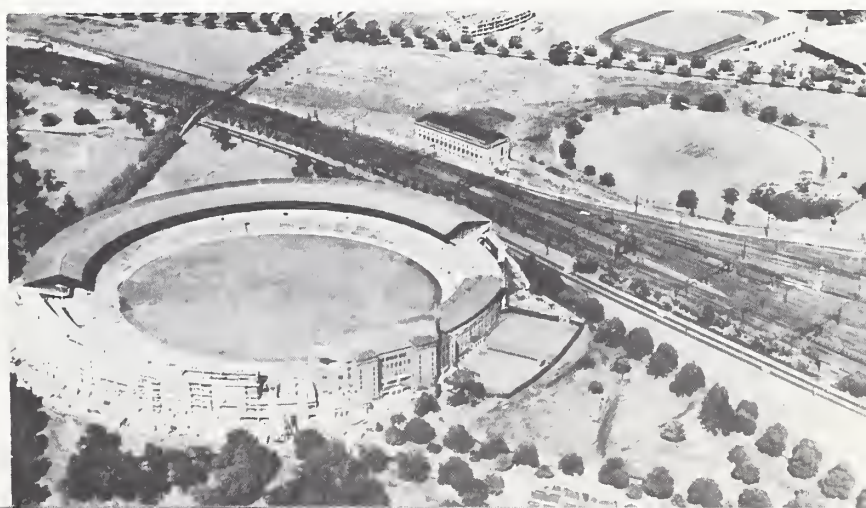
Aside from their interest as a traditional sports event, why are the Olympic Games worth talking about?

For one thing, the Games are concrete evidence that international friendship, harmony, and understanding are possible. Representatives of nations that do not see eye-to-eye on international affairs can meet on the field of sports in an atmosphere of friendly rivalry. The spirit of good will that characterizes the Olympics takes on special importance in times like these when tensions and disagreements are widespread among the nations of the world.

The Games have a second and related value. They are the renewal, every four years, of something that is as old as western civilization itself. They are an actual and living link with the remote past. Some of today's Olympic events, such as the foot races, date back to the first Olympic Games of 776 B. C. But even more important, the modern Games are based on the same ideals of sportsmanship and fair play that dominated the ancient Games during the first few centuries of their history.

### THE ANCIENT GAMES

No one knows how many Olympic Games there have been altogether, because records of the early Games are far from complete. We can only assume, from what we do know, that they were held every four years for



**Normally a cricket ground, Melbourne Stadium is largest (110,000 capacity) ever to hold Olympics, yet it is located less than a mile from downtown.**



more than eleven hundred years, until they were abolished in A. D. 394.

The first recorded Olympic contest was a foot race of 200 yards, which took place on the plain of Olympia in southwestern Greece about 776 B. C. The winner, the first known Olympic champion, was a man named Coroebus (ko-REE-bus). In later Olympic Games other events were added. There were more and longer foot races, in some of which the runners wore armor and carried military equipment. In time, the Games included chariot races, broad-jumping, boxing, and Greek wrestling. The throwing of the spear, direct ancestor of the modern javelin throw, began very early. So did the throwing of the discus, another event that survives in the modern Games.

The Olympic Games were the most celebrated of Greek festivals. In those early times, Greece was not a united country. It consisted of independent city-states, often at war with one another. But every four years, when the Olympics were to take place, there was a truce in the wars—and woe to the man who violated it. The Games even came to be spoken of as a possible “substitute for war.”

The influence of the Games on

Greek life probably reached its peak in the fourth century B. C. The greatest ambition of every young boy was to compete in the Games some day, and the greatest ambition of every community was to have at least one Olympic champion. To participate in the Games came to be regarded as the highest of honors. To be eligible, one had to be a free-born Greek with an unblemished record of citizenship. Even the most trivial violation of the nation's laws and customs was enough to bar an individual from participation.

In the ancient Games foot-racing and discus-throwing were favorite events. The discus, incidentally, was the symbol of mighty muscles in those days. The greatest athlete in the land was the man who could throw the discus farthest. For many years, championships in the other events were considered less important.



Emperor  
Theodosius

A winner's only official reward was a wreath of olive leaves, placed on his head; but his home community would later heap many honors on him. The Greeks had a tremendous admiration for athletic prowess. Poets sang the praises of Olympic champions, and they were given a place of honor in public assemblies. Statues were erected to them, and some cities supported them at public expense for life.

The conquest of Greece by the Romans in the second century B. C. was a turning-point in the history of the Games. The Romans continued to hold them for some time, but the contests' early idealism gradually disappeared. It was replaced by bitter rivalry for supremacy between the Greeks and their Roman conquerors. Fair play was forgotten and scandals began to be common. Finally, in 394 A. D., Emperor Theodosius abolished the Games. More than 1,500 years were to pass before they were held again.

## THE MODERN GAMES

The revival of the Olympic Games came largely from one man's idea and his energetic work in selling that idea. The man was a French-

Roman Emperor Theodosius abolished the Games in A. D. 394. They were started again in 1896, largely through work of Baron Pierre de Coubertin (below).



Cheering crowds and colorful ceremonies marked Games' revival in 1896.



man, Baron Pierre de Coubertin (Coo-bare-TANH). His interest in international peace, together with his belief that an international sports program would contribute to international good will, led him to suggest that the ancient Games be revived. He argued that just as the Games had helped to unite the cities and tribes of ancient Greece, so might they help the nations of the modern world forget their differences and quarrels. In 1892 he presented his idea to the governing bodies of organized sports in various countries, and by 1896 plans had been completed for the first Olympic Games of modern times.

### 1896—Athens

Athens, Greece, not far from the traditional site of the ancient Games, was chosen as the scene of their modern revival. It was also agreed that future Olympic Games would be held in different cities throughout the world. This explains why Olympic Games have since been held in Paris, St. Louis, London, Stockholm, Antwerp, Amsterdam, Los Angeles, Berlin, and Helsinki.

In the Games at Athens, American athletes won nine of the twelve championships. In the field events they won the hop-step-jump, the discus, the shot-put, the pole vault, the high jump, and the broad jump. In the track events they lost only one event, the 800-meter race.

*The first modern marathon*, which is a familiar feature of Olympic Games today, was run in 1896. It was not part of the ancient Games, although the race gets its name from the epic feat of the Greek soldier who ran from Marathon to Athens to report his nation's victory over the invading Persians. While Marathon and Athens are actually 22 miles apart, the standard distance for the present-day marathon has been set at 26 miles, 385 yards. The 1896 race was

won by Spiridon Loues, a frail-looking Greek shepherd. He was given honors like those of the Olympic champions of old.

### 1900—Paris

The Games of 1896 had been only moderately successful in their stated purpose. Most countries simply had no top-notch athletes to send. Moreover, the track and field events featured in the Games were not particularly popular sports outside the United States and Great Britain.

In Paris, four years later, the Olympic Committee introduced a number of new and unusual events, including fishing in the River Seine. Nevertheless, entries in track and field events were the most significant, and the United States team again dominated them, taking 17 of the 22 championships.

As they had after the 1896 Games, American newspapers proclaimed that the United States had "won the Olympic Games." It should always be borne in mind, however, that under Olympic rules only *individuals* win honors in the contests. Therefore *no nation, strictly speaking, ever wins the Games, although the newspapers of most countries customarily add up unofficially the points made by the various national teams.*

It is well to remember also that while Americans tend to look upon the track and field events as the highlights of the Games, some other countries pay more attention to other Olympic events, such as cycling, gymnastics, or the winter sports.

### 1904—St. Louis

Partly because of the expense of the trip, few European contestants entered the 1904 Games at St. Louis.

The marathon of the 1904 Games is remembered for an unusual incident. An American entry dropped out at the sixteenth mile and decided



Bright Path, an American Indian known as Jim Thorpe, was star of 1912 Olympics, but ineligibility erased all records he set.

to ride the rest of the way aboard an early-model auto. A few hundred yards from the stadium, an impulse seemed to have prompted what he later claimed was intended purely as a joke. At any rate, he climbed out of the auto at that point, trotted into the stadium, and created a sensation by crossing the finish line, apparently bettering by about an hour the fastest recorded time for the event. After momentarily hailing him as winner and an incredible record-breaker, the officials soon discovered his hoax, and he was later barred for life from amateur sports competition.

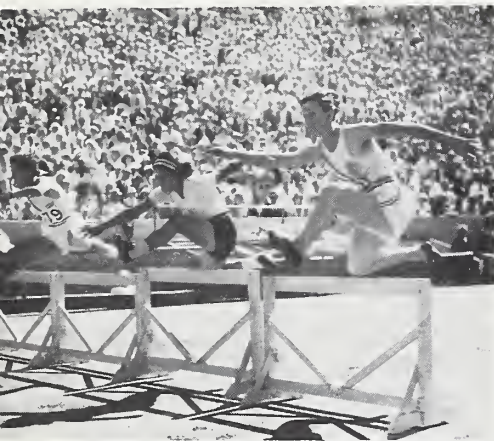
### 1908—London

The London Games of 1908 are remembered chiefly for a series of unfortunate incidents, some of which did violence to the Olympic ideals of good sportsmanship. The Irish team was informed that their scores would be included with those of the United Kingdom. U. S. officials claimed that one of the star Canadian athletes was a professional. These and other preliminary frictions set the stage for even noisier disputes in several of the Olympic events.





Winner of 7 titles in 3 Olympics, Finland's Paavo Nurmi wins 1924 distance event.



"Babe" Didrikson clears inside hurdle on way to women's 80-meter record in 1932.



America's Jesse Owens smashed 2 records in 3 events during 1936 Berlin Games.

In the marathon, an Italian entry was about 30 yards from victory when he collapsed. A moment later an American, John Hayes, entered the stadium. When he was about to cross the finish line, over-excited British officials rushed out on the track, lifted the fallen Italian to his feet, and helped him across the line ahead of Hayes. At first the Italian was declared winner, but after much dispute Hayes was given the victory. This race is still spoken of as the Dorando marathon, after the Italian who almost won it.

In the 400-meter dash, with three Americans and an Englishman competing, a dispute concerning an alleged rules infraction caused the officials to declare it "no race" and order it to be run over the following day. The American runners refused to take part in the re-run, so the English entry ran around the track all alone, to become the only uncontested Olympic victor in history.

In the long view, the unfortunate mishaps of the 1908 Games proved helpful, for in all Games since that year, the judges and officials have been members of an *international* board elected by the various national Olympic Associations. (Before 1912, the nation playing host to the Games had furnished the officials for the various contests.)

## 1912—Stockholm

The Stockholm Games were run off with no "rhubarbs" or bitterly disputed decisions. One feature of these Games, however, was to have unfortunate developments after the Games were over. This was the sensational performance of the American Indian, Jim Thorpe, whom many people call the greatest athlete of all time. Thorpe was a one-man track and field team, who set new records in most of the events he won.

Soon after Thorpe's achievement, however, an American sports writer

discovered that Thorpe had once been paid a few dollars for playing baseball during a summer vacation. This fact, of course, made Thorpe ineligible to compete in Olympic Games, which are only for amateurs. Thorpe returned all his medals and cups, and his magnificent Olympic records were stricken from the official rolls. That's why you won't see Thorpe's name in the official accounts of the 1912 Games. Nevertheless, his achievements are still talked and written about. He is probably one of the few athletes of that day who would not be entirely overshadowed by the present Olympic champions in the events in which he excelled.

Women took part in the Olympic Games, for the first time, in 1912. In the ancient Games women did not compete, and for the first several centuries of the Games they were not even permitted to watch the contests.

## 1920—Antwerp

World War I prevented the holding of Games in 1916, but in 1920 they were resumed at Antwerp. Athletes from the Scandinavian countries and Finland had made good showings in the Games of 1912. In 1920, they dominated the track events. Paavo Nurmi, the "Flying Finn," was the outstanding performer by reason of his easy victories in the 10,000-meter run and the 10,000-meter cross-country.

## 1924—Paris

Four years later, the great Nurmi did even better, winning four championships in running events. (Altogether, in three Olympic Games Nurmi won seven championships. He never finished worse than second in any event.) United States competitors, while their victories were fewer than in some of the earlier Games, because of greater competition, continued to make excellent



**Alice Coachman of Georgia cleared bar for a new record in 1948 London Games.**

showings, particularly in track and field events.

### 1928—Amsterdam

The 1928 Games marked a temporary setback for United States competitors in the track and field events. On the track they won only the 400-meter event and the two relay races. Their record in the field events was somewhat better.

### 1932—Los Angeles

For the 1932 Games Los Angeles built a stadium accommodating more than 100,000 spectators and an Olympic village for the more than 2,500 competitors.

**American women who copped aquatic event titles in 1948 Games: diver Vicky Draves and 400-meter free style swimmer Ann Curtis.**



Among the highlights of the Los Angeles Games was the performance of a young American woman named Mildred ("Babe") Didrikson, in the events for women. She won the 80-meter hurdles and the javelin throw and was second in the high jump.

Most existing track and field records were broken in the 1932 Games, U. S. contestants winning first or second place in more than half of these events. Japanese men and American women took most of the honors in swimming.

### 1936—Berlin

So many Olympic and world records had been established at Los Angeles that many experts believed some of them would never be surpassed. Yet four years later, at Berlin, 17 of these records were either broken or equaled, and five new world records were established. United States performers had a good share in this achievement. Specially noteworthy was the spectacular performance of Jesse Owens, the outstanding single performer of the Games. He won three firsts, established two new Olympic records—in the 200-meter dash and the broad jump—and equaled the previous Olympic record in the 100-meter dash. Owens was also a member of the 400-meter relay team, which set a new Olympic and world record.



**Pat McCormick took the women's high-diving and springboard laurels in 1952.**



**Bob Mathias, now a Marine lieutenant, won Olympic decathlon in both 1948 and 1952.**

The years 1940 and 1944 were war years; no Games were held. Consequently, there was a 12-year gap between the Berlin Games and the postwar renewal of the Olympics at London in 1948.

### 1948—London

The 1948 Games saw Americans continue their triumphs in the men's track and field events. In winning 11 out of the 24 events, Americans established new Olympic records in four and tied the record in another. Bob Mathias, a California high-school student, won the most grueling Olympic contest, the decathlon.

*The decathlon* consists of 10 events, in all of which the contestant takes part.





Dick Button carried U. S. to victory in 1948 and 1952 figure skating events.



Andrea Meade Lawrence brought home the bacon in two 1952 women's skiing wins.

The ten events are:

- 1,500-meter flat race
- 400-meter flat race
- 100-meter flat race
- 110-meter hurdle race
- Shot put
- Discus throw
- Javelin throw
- Pole vault
- Running broad jump
- Running high jump

The winner is determined by the total points scored in these 10 events.

An American girl, Alice Coachman, set a new Olympic record for the high jump in the women's competition.

In men's swimming and diving

competition, Americans took all eight events, setting three new Olympic records and one new world record. United States women swimmers won four of the seven events in that class, setting two new Olympic records.

In free-style wrestling, Americans took championships in the middleweight and light-heavy-weight divisions.

The United States also had winners in the canoeing, rowing, yachting, shooting, weight-lifting, and basketball events. The United States Army equestrian team won the three-day team test.

## 1952—Helsinki

The 1952 Olympics at Helsinki, Finland, drew the largest world representation up to that time: nearly 6,000 contestants from 69 countries. U. S. teams totaled more than 300.

As usual, the Americans were outstanding in the track and field sports. They won 14 of 24 events, broke seven Olympic records, tied two, and broke one world record. The U. S. women's team won the 400-meter relay race.



Cortina d'Ampezzo, Italy, scene of 1956 Winter Olympics. Hockey competition, below, saw U. S. defeat Canada and take second honors. From top on opposite page are figure skaters Hayes and David Jenkins, Colorado brothers who took first and third, and Massachusetts' Tenley Albright, the women's champion.

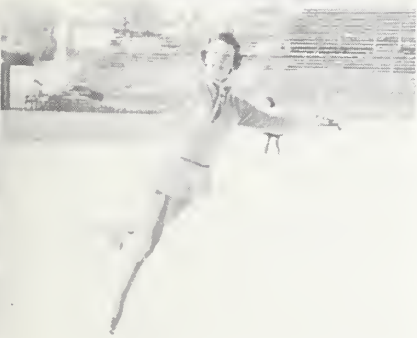


Mathias won the decathlon for the second time, setting a new Olympic and world record. He is the only person in Olympic history to win the decathlon twice.

Emil Zatopek, of Czechoslovakia, proved to be the greatest distance runner of all time by winning the marathon (26 miles, 385 yards), as well as the 5,000-meter and the 10,000-meter races, and setting new Olympic records in all three.

Americans won five boxing contests and six out of eight men's swimming events. In women's diving, an American girl (Pat McCormick), won two championships,





and three other Americans placed second and third in highboard diving and third in springboard diving.

Altogether, U. S. athletes won 40 first, 19 second, and 17 third places.

## THE WINTER OLYMPICS

Winter sports have been officially part of the modern Olympic Games since 1924. They started off on a small scale, with comparatively few countries represented, but public interest in them has grown, until at present they attract almost as much attention as the traditional summer Games. The winter Olympics consist of various events in skiing, speed

and figure skating, and bobsledding, together with ice hockey.

In most of the winter Games, contestants from the Scandinavian countries, where winters are long and snow plentiful, have taken top honors in skiing and speed skating. U. S. teams have been outstanding in bobsled races.

In 1948, Dick Button won the men's figure skating championship, and Gretchen Frazer was first in the women's special slalom. This was the first time an American had ever won an Olympic skiing contest.

Another American woman, Andrea Mead Lawrence, won two skiing championships in 1952. That year Dick Button repeated his 1948 triumph in figure skating, and Ken Henry was first in the 500-meter speed skating contest.

The Soviet Union entered contestants in the winter Games for the first time at Cortina d'Ampezzo, Italy, in 1956. They won more events than entries from any other nation.

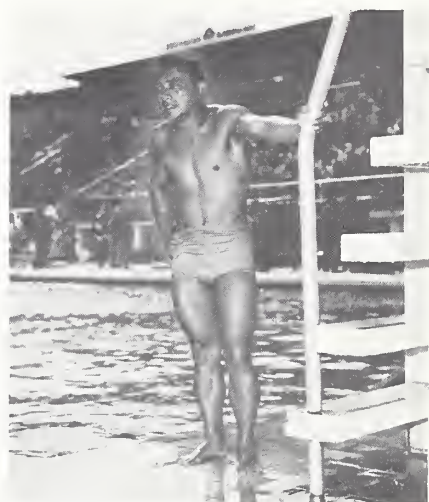
U. S. contestants won the top three places in men's single figure skating, with Hayes Jenkins first, and his brother David third. Another American, Tenley Albright, won the women's single figure skating event. The U. S. ice hockey team placed second.

## SERVICES PLAY THEIR PART

For a number of years, participation by U. S. military personnel in the Olympic Games was limited chiefly to the equestrian and shooting events. In the days of cavalry, the Army was the only organization in the United States that could provide an equestrian team of Olympic caliber. Our rifle and pistol teams, too, consisted mostly of military men. In both the riding and shooting events, our teams and individual members have won medals in various Olympic competitions over the years.



Sgt. Mal Whitfield, USAF, won 800-meter run in 1948 and in the 1952 Games (above).



Maj. Sammy Lee, U. S. Army doctor, surpassed all comers in high-diving at Helsinki.



Naval Academy oarsmen carried U. S. to victory in the 1952 Helsinki competition.

# ARMED FORCES MEMBERS OF OLYMPIC TEAM AS OF 15 JULY

## Track and Field

- 100-meter dash—Pvt. Ira J. Murchison, USA, Fort MacArthur, Calif.  
1st Lt. W. Thane Baker, USAF, Lockbourne AFB, Ohio.  
200-meter dash—1st Lt. W. Thane Baker, USAF, Lockbourne AFB, Ohio.  
400-meter run—Pfc. Louis W. Jones, USA, Fort George G. Meade, Md.  
1st Lt. James Lea, USAF, Edwards AFB, Calif.  
800-meter run—Pvt. Thomas W. Courtney, USA, Boston Army Base, Mass.  
1st Lt. Lonnie Spurrier, USAF, Hamilton AFB, Calif.  
110-meter hurdles—Lt. (jg) Jack W. Davis, USN, NTC San Diego, Calif.  
400-meter hurdles—Pvt. Joshua Culbreath, USMC, USMC Schools, Quantico, Va.  
5000-meter run—2d Lt. William Dellinger, USAF, Portland International Airport, Oreg.  
Broad jump—SP3 John D. Bennett, USA, Ft. MacArthur, Calif.  
Javelin throw—Seaman Benjamin Garcia, USN, NTC San Diego, Calif.  
Shot put—1st Lt. Parry W. O'Brien, USAF, Travis AFB, Calif.  
Pole vault—A/1C George Mattos, USAF, March AFB, Calif.

## Basketball

- 1st Lt. William B. Evans, USAF, Ellington AFB, Tex.  
2d Lt. Gilbert Ford, USAF, Tinker AFB, Okla.  
2d Lt. Ronald Tomsic, USAF, Truax Field, Wis.  
2d Lt. Richard Bushka, USAF, Kirtland AFB, N. Mex.  
2d Lt. Robert E. Jeangerard, USAF, Ellington AFB, Tex.

## Equestrian

- Maj. Jonathan R. Burton, USA, Fort Polk, La.  
Seaman Hugh Wiley, USN, NRTC Baltimore, Md.  
Airman Frank D. Chapot, USAF, Donaldson AFB, S. C.

## Fencing

- Seaman Sewall Shurtz, USN, Receiving Station, Brooklyn, N. Y.  
Lt. (jg) William J. Andre, USN, U. S. Naval Academy.

## Gymnastics

- 2d Lt. Karl K. Schwenzfeier, USAF, Olmstead AFB, Pa.

## Rowing

- Double sculls—Pvt. James A. Gardiner, USA, Fort Sheridan, Ill.  
Pairs with coxswain—Ens. Arthur D. Ayrault, USN, NRTC Syracuse, N. Y.  
Pairs without coxswain—Lt. (jg) James T. Fifer, USN, NAS Willow Grove, Pa.  
1st Lt. Duvall Y. Hecht, USMC, MCAS, Cherry Point, N. C.  
Fours with coxswain—Pfc. Douglas L. Turner, USA, Fort Niagara, N. Y.  
2d Lt. Ronald Cardwell, USMC, NAS Pensacola, Fla.  
Fours without coxswain—Sgt. John D. McKinlay, USMC, Camp Lejeune, N. C.

## Soccer

- Sgt. Albert F. Zerhusen, USA\*  
SP3 William Conterio, USA\*  
Pfc. Siegbert M. Wirth, USA, Fort George G. Meade, Md.

## Wrestling

- Free style—Ens. Peter S. Blair, USN, U. S. Naval Academy.  
Greco-Roman—1st Lt. Jay T. Evans, USAF, Tinker AFB, Okla.  
Pfc. John R. Wilson, USA, Fort Dix, N. J.  
Cpl. Dale Lewis, USMC, Camp Pendleton, Calif.

\*Qualified while in Army; since released from active duty.

*The modern pentathlon* (formerly called the military pentathlon) was introduced in the 1912 Games at Stockholm. This is a series of five events in which the champion is determined by total scores in:

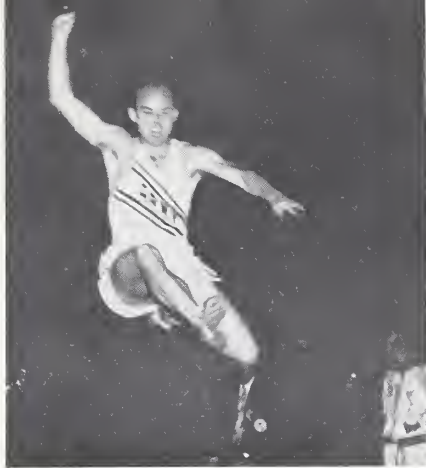
- Shooting—pistol or revolver (20 shots at 25 meters)  
Swimming (300-meter free-style)  
Fencing — with épée (dueling sword)  
Cross-country run (4000 meters)  
Riding (5000-meter cross-country)

In previous Olympic Games, our modern pentathlon teams have consisted only of Army men. This year the Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard each have a man training with Army candidates for this event.

The first American ever to compete in the modern pentathlon was an Army lieutenant, in the 1912 Games. The young officer entered it without any special training or preparation. He was not a good swimmer; in fact, the 300-meter swim was almost the end of him. Some of his friends claimed that in the shooting event he was charged with one miss because one of his bullets passed neatly through the hole made by an earlier shot and left no trace on the target. Nevertheless, the young American officer defeated the ultimate winner of the pentathlon in three of the five events and was third in total points scored. The world was to hear more of him as victor on more serious fields some 30 years later. His name: George S. Patton, Jr.

Perhaps the most unusual event in the modern pentathlon is the cross-country ride, which demands the utmost in horsemanship. In this event, each contestant draws his horse by lot from a group of mounts that none of the contestants has ever ridden before. The contestants are given just 15 minutes to become acquainted with their horses; then they start off over a strange course full of





Three Army members of 1956 team (from left): Pvt. Tom Courtney, 800-meter run; SP3 John Bennett, broad jump; Pfc Lou Jones, world 400-meter record holder.

steeplechase jumps and similar obstacles.

A U. S. Naval Academy crew made the U. S. Olympic rowing team for the first time in 1920—and won the eight-oared race. Another Naval Academy crew repeated this triumph in the 1952 Olympics.

Before World War II, outstanding athletes in the Armed Forces could compete for places on the various Olympic teams on an individual basis. But there was no overall Olympic program in the Services.

Experience in the war convinced our military leaders that, to quote the Navy report on the 1948 Olympics, "competitive sport was the most effective method to obtain the physical fitness and teamwork indoctrination essential to success in combat." Consequently, in 1947 the

Services organized a program to give every interested member an opportunity to train for and compete in the trials for the Olympic Games to be held in 1948. Congress passed legislation authorizing the project.

Because the program was late getting started, few members of the Armed Forces qualified for the 1948 Olympic team, except for the traditional equestrian, shooting, and modern pentathlon teams. In addition to medals won by these teams, which included first prize for the three-day endurance event won by the U. S. Army equestrian team, members of our Armed Forces won the high dive and took second place in welter-weight boxing and backstroke swimming.

**1952 Olympics.** More members of the Armed Forces competed for and



California college student Charles Dumas shook sports world, leaped into Olympic berth with high jump of 7 feet 5/8 inch.



Three of Navy's representatives on Olympic team (from left): Lt. (jg) Jack Davis, 110-meter hurdler, Ens. Pete Blair, free style grappler, Seaman Ben Garcia, javelin tosser.



## THE OLYMPIC OATH

We swear that we will take part in the Olympic Games in fair competition, respecting the regulations which govern them and with the desire to participate in the true spirit of sportsmanship for the honor of our country and for the glory of sport.



Air Force 1956 Olympians Lt. Parry O'Brien (left), holder of world's shot put record; Armed Forces' pole vault champ, A1C George Mattos (center, lower photo).

won places on the 1952 Olympic team than in any previous year. Altogether, 81 men of the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard took part in the summer Games at Helsinki. The Services were represented in every sport except canoeing. Twenty-seven of the 81 won awards: 17 gold medals for Olympic championships in track and field, weight lifting, boxing, rowing, diving, shooting, and basketball; four silver medals for second place in track and field and weight lifting; six bronze medals for third place in track and field, wrestling, swimming, shooting, and equestrian events.

In the winter Games at Oslo, Norway, the U. S. team had 21 members from the Army, Navy, Air Force, and Marine Corps. The



Pvt. Josh Culbreath wins 400-meter hurdles billet on 1956 U. S. Olympic team.



Armed Forces were represented on the four-man bobsled team and on the ice hockey team, both of which won second place. Another serviceman placed second in the 500-meter speed skating event. Servicemen also took part in various skiing competitions.

Another 1952 Olympics achievement by members of the Armed Forces received little publicity. It did not take place at Helsinki or Oslo, but it helped make possible participation by many more servicemen than in previous years. It was this: men and women of our Armed Forces contributed generously and willingly to the United States Olympic fund. As an illustration of this generosity, the Army alone kicked in with a total of nearly \$70,000. Half of that amount came from the pockets of Eighth Army soldiers then slugging it out against the Communists in the mud of Korea.

## ROUNDUP FOR 1956

Each of the Armed Services encouraged and assisted its outstanding athletes all over the world to train and compete for places on the 1956 U. S. Olympic team.

There are several avenues by which servicemen gain entry to final Olympic trials, depending on the sports concerned. Outstanding achievement in Service Championships, Inter-Service Championships, Armed Forces Olympic Trials, National Amateur Athletic Union Championships, and Regional Olympic Trials are among the ways in which individuals may qualify for participation in the final Olympic trials. Those who are successful in the final Olympic trials are chosen to represent the United States in the Olympic Games.

In boxing, each Service may enter one contestant in each weight class directly in the final Olympic trials, and contestants may also qualify for the final trials through Olympic Regional Trials.



Servicemen may qualify for the Olympic trials in track and field through competing in the Inter-Service Track and Field Championships or the National Amateur Athletic Union Track and Field Championships. The first three men in each event of the Inter-Service Championships and the first six in each event of the National AAU Championships qualify for the Olympic trials.

For those sports in which the Services do not conduct a program, such as rowing and cycling, the chairmen of the respective Service Games Committees make recommendations as to whether the capabilities of the individuals concerned merit training for, and participation in, the Olympic trials.

Twenty-three Armed Forces athletes qualified for places on the 1956 U. S. winter Olympic team. Servicemen won silver medals in the two-man bobsled event and as members of the second-place ice hockey team.

The names of those who had won places on the summer Olympic team by 15 July will be found in the box (page 10).

As of that date, the final Olympic trials were still to be held in boxing, swimming and diving, the modern pentathlon, weightlifting, rifle and pistol shooting, canoeing, cycling, field hockey, water polo, and yachting. Men of the Armed Forces were in training for each of these sports and were expected to qualify for the final trials. In addition, three servicewomen—a Wac, a WAVE, and a woman Marine—were in training for the women's final Olympic track and field trials.

## THE OLYMPIC IDEAL

It would be easy to exaggerate the importance of the Olympic Games as an influence toward international understanding and good will. The holding of the Games certainly does not mean that the world has suddenly

become one happy and harmonious family. When this year's Games are over, grave international problems will still face the governments and peoples of the world. On the other hand, it would be a mistake to dismiss the Olympic Games as "just another sporting event"—something that is fun to watch or read about but that has nothing to do with the more serious problems of our times.

Each running of the modern Olympic Games has been a kind of demonstration in international relations. Sometimes the demonstration has been negative, revealing ill will and poor sportsmanship. At other times the Games have given the world outstanding examples of fair play.

There was the time, for example, when an American hurdler was declared to have finished third in a hurdle race. When later study of the pictures of the race proved that a British runner had actually finished third, the American, without waiting for an official ruling, sought out the British runner and handed him the third-place medal. Another American runner was accidentally fouled by a Finnish runner in a 5,000-meter race, and possibly lost the race because of it. He could have asked the officials for a ruling that might have made him the winner. But he didn't—he didn't want to be a champion through an unintentional foul.

Admittedly, these are minor and individual incidents involving personal ideas of sportsmanship that reflect personal credit on the athletes concerned. They are but two of a great many occurrences, behind the headlines, that reflect the true spirit of the Olympic Games.

Whether the Games can continue as an instrument for the promotion of international good will remains to be seen. Avery Brundage, of Chicago, President of the International Olympic Committee, recently issued a statement in which he re-

minded the world that "the Olympic Games are contests between individuals. They are designed to be a joyous festival of the youth of the world. The competitors give their best efforts—win if they can—but, if not, rejoice with the victors.

"The Games are not, and must not become, a contest between nations which would be entirely contrary to the spirit of the Olympic movement and would surely lead to disaster. For this reason there is no official score, and tables of points are really misinformation because they are entirely inaccurate. To be correct, they would have to be weighted, since it is certainly unfair to give the winner of the marathon or decathlon, a winning gymnast, pistol shooter or yachtsman, and a winning football or basketball team, the same score. Moreover, to be fair, the factor of population should be considered, and if careful analysis were made, it would be discovered that many small nations have won far more Olympic medals on a *per capita* basis than the larger countries.

"Normal national pride is perfectly legitimate, but neither the Olympic Games nor any other sport contest can be said to indicate the superiority of one political system over another, or of one country over another. One of the objects of the Olympic Games is to build international good will and efforts made to pit one nation against another in this or any other manner must be severely censured."

This year, most of the nations to be represented at Melbourne are clearly lined up on one side or the other in the crucial world-wide contest between freedom and tyranny. But in the Olympic stadium the ancient ideals of the *free* world will dominate the scene. Every contestant will be regarded as a free and responsible individual. His race, nationality, or political beliefs will be incidental—only his performance

will count in the Olympic records. His performance, moreover, will be judged by officials who have no national or other axes to grind. They will be independent and impartial because they are appointed by the Olympic Associations

of all the participating countries. Orderly and harmonious Olympic Games can be a genuine beacon of hope in these times of international tension. If people from over 70 nations of the world can compete amicably in spirited athletic con-

tests, governed by strict rules agreed upon by all, then we can continue to hope that some day the nations will be able to find peaceful means of resolving the grave issues that now divide the world. Then *everybody* will win.

## SOME OLYMPIC AND WORLD RECORDS

### Track and Field—Men

Event	Olympic Record	Holder	World Record	Holder
100-meter dash.....	10.3 sec.....	{Eddie Tolan, U. S. Harrison Dillard, U. S.	10.2 sec.....	{Jesse Owens, U. S. Harold Davis, U. S. Lloyd La Beach, Panama N. H. Ewell, U. S. E. McD. Bailey, Gr. Britain Heinz Futterer, Germany Melvin Patton, U. S.
200-meter dash.....	20.7 sec.....	{Jesse Owens, U. S. Andrew Stanfield, U. S.	20.2 sec.....	Melvin Patton, U. S.
400-meter run.....	45.9 sec.....	{George Rhoden, Jamaica, B. W. I. H. H. McKenley, Jamaica, B. W. I.	45.4 sec.....	Lou Jones, U. S.
800-meter run.....	1 min. 49.2 sec.....	Mal Whitfield, U. S.	1 min. 45.7 sec.....	Roger Moens, Belgium
1500-meter run.....	3 min. 45.2 sec.....	{Joseph Barthel, Luxembourg Robert McMillen, U. S.	3 min. 40.8 sec.....	{Laszlo Tabori, Hungary Gunnar Nielson, Denmark
5000-meter run.....	14 min. 6.6 sec....	Emil Zatopek, Czechoslovakia.	13 min. 40.6 sec...	Sandor Haros, Hungary
10,000-meter run.....	29 min. 17 sec.....	Emil Zatopek, Czechoslovakia.	28 min. 54.2 sec ...	Emil Zatopek, Czechoslovakia
Marathon.....	2 hrs. 23 min. 3.2 sec.	Emil Zatopek, Czechoslovakia		
10,000-meter walk....	45 min. 2.8 sec.....	John Mikaelsson, Sweden	42 min. 39.6 sec....	Verner Hardmo, Sweden
50,000-meter walk....	4 hrs. 28 min. 7.8 sec.	Guiseppe Dordoni, Italy	4 hrs. 28 min. 7.8 sec.	Guiseppe Dordoni, Italy
110-meter hurdles.....	13.7 sec.....	{Harrison Dillard, U. S. Jack Davis, U. S.	13.5 sec.....	{Richard H. Attlesley, U. S. Fred Wolcott, U. S.
400-meter hurdles.....	50.8 sec.....	Charles Moore, U. S.	50.4 sec.....	J. Lituyev, U. S. S. R.
High jump.....	6 ft. 8 1/4 in.....	Walt Davis, U. S.	6 ft. 11 1/2 in.....	Walt Davis, U. S.
Broad jump.....	26 ft. 5/16 in.....	Jesse Owens, U. S.	26 ft. 8 1/4 in.....	Jesse Owens, U. S.
Hop, step, jump.....	53 ft. 2 1/2 in.....	A. Ferreira da Silva, Brazil	53 ft. 2 3/4 in.....	L. Scherbakov, U. S. S. R.
Pole vault.....	14 ft. 11 1/4 in.....	Robert Richards, U. S.	15 ft. 7 3/4 in.....	C. Warmerdam, U. S.
Discus.....	180 ft. 6 1/2 in.....	Sim Iness, U. S.	194 ft. 6 in.....	Fortune Gordien, U. S.
Javelin.....	242 ft. 3/4 in.....	Cy Young, U. S.	268 ft. 2 1/2 in.....	Bud Held, U. S.
Shot put.....	57 ft. 1 1/2 in.....	Parry O'Brien, U. S.	60 ft. 10 in.....	W. Parry O'Brien, U. S.
Hammer.....	197 ft. 11 1/4 in.....	Joseph Csermak, Hungary	207 ft. 9 3/4 in.....	Mikhail Krivonosov, U. S. S. R.
Decathlon.....	7,887 pts.....	Robert Mathias, U. S.	7,985 pts.....	Rafer Johnson, U. S.

### Track and Field—Women

100-meter dash.....	11.5 sec.....	{Helen Stephens, U. S. Marjorie Jackson, Australia	11.3 sec.....	Shirley Delahunty, Australia
200-meter dash.....	23.4 sec.....	Marjorie Jackson, Australia	23.4 sec.....	Marjorie Jackson, Australia
80-meter hurdles.....	10.9 sec.....	Shirley Strickland, Australia	10.8 sec.....	G. Ermolenko, U. S. S. R.
High jump.....	5 ft. 6 1/4 in.....	{Alice Coachman, U. S. Dorothy Tyler, Great Britain	5 ft. 7 3/4 in.....	A. Chudina, U. S. S. R.
Broad jump.....	20 ft. 5 3/4 in.....	Yvette Williams, New Zealand	20 ft. 7 1/2 in.....	Yvette Williams, New Zealand
Discus.....	168 ft. 8 1/2 in.....	Nina Romaschkova, U. S. S. R.	187 ft. 1 1/2 in.....	N. Dumbadze, U. S. S. R.
Javelin.....	165 ft. 7 in.....	Dana Zatopekova, Czechoslovakia	182 ft.....	N. Konjaeva, U. S. S. R.
Shot put.....	50 ft. 1 1/2 in.....	Galina Zybina, U. S. S. R.	53 ft. 5 1/4 in.....	Galina Zybina, U. S. S. R.



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NG: None.

USAR: None.

For explanation of abbreviations used, see SR 320-50-1.

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